

nucleic acids encoding a telomerase protein or diagnosing telomerase-related diseases (e.g., claims 21 and 24) is replete in the specification; see, e.g., page 52, line 25 to page 55, line 4. Use of human tissue samples (e.g., claim 22) is described at, e.g., page 52, line 28 to page 53, line 5. The polynucleotide of claim 25 and polypeptide of claim 26 find support at, e.g., page 97 of the specification.

It is believed that the pending claims are in condition of allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400, Ext. 5270.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randolph T. Apple", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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